

**Movies** pg 10

**And let the Bride Wars begin**



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**Celebrity Buzz**



**ScarJo just veggin' out**  
pg 18

## Harper more upbeat on state of economy

**INTERVIEW** Prime Minister Stephen Harper was less gloomy about the economy in an interview released Thursday, saying Canada was in a strong economic position compared with others and should be able to exit the recession relatively quickly.

The comments to Maclean's magazine were noticeably more cheerful than those he made in an interview in mid-December, when he said he was very worried about the economy and speculated about the possibility of a depression.

Harper, who as recently as mid-October said he had a plan to avoid recession, now concedes there is no chance Canada can escape the global economic crisis. Ottawa has already made clear it will run budget deficits for the next few years.

The minority Conservative government will unveil a budget on Jan. 27 and Harper has said it will include a stimulus plan that could be worth as much as \$30 billion. **REUTERS**

**Local** pg 2

**5 km more ice on Canal**

**Sports** pg 8



**Mom runs into record books**

**Music** pg 13



**Sam Roberts coast to coast**



Ottawa residents Doug Nesbitt, Joel Harden and Stuart Neatpy, from left to right, showed their support for union members as they went to the Ottawa Civic Centre to vote Thursday on the city's latest contract offer.

# Scheduling, 'quality of life': Deal breakers?

## Strike still on: Transit workers reject city's offer

**TRACEY TONG**  
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**Ottawa's transit strike continues as OC Transpo workers voted against the city's latest offer in a vote at Lansdowne Park on Thursday.**

Hundreds of the city's 2,300 OC Transpo drivers, mechanics and other staff currently on strike cast their ballots at the Ottawa Civic Centre on Thursday, after federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 to allow members to vote on the City of Ottawa's latest offer.

While union management encouraged its members to reject the offer, it appeared Thursday that they didn't have anything to worry about.

A press release from the mayor's office said that

**"We're in the trenches and plan on staying in."**

Bus driver Dave Beamish

64.4 per cent of the eligible voters rejected the city's latest contract offer.

The vote was "a waste of time," said Naveen Kumar, a driver for OC Transpo for the past three-and-a-half years. Standing outside the Civic Centre after their vote, Kumar and several of his fellow union members said they'd all voted no.

"The city's not offering anything good," he said. "It's the same thing they offered before — it's just the money that's going up and up and up. But we don't want the money. Scheduling is the big issue."

Sort out the scheduling and "everyone will be back to work the next day," he said.

He's not worried that there's talk of the city hiring scabs to drive the buses.

"It's not that easy," he said. "I think it'll be a landslide No vote," said Dave Beamish, who has been driving a bus for more than 10 years.

"We're in the trenches and plan on staying in," he added. "We have no intention on giving up. This is about quality of life. We're not going to prostitute ourselves for \$2,500."

Outside the Civic Centre, union supporters urged members to stand their ground.

"The City of Ottawa has been trying to push these workers against the wall," said Joel Harden, a transit user and employee for the

Canadian Labour Congress.

"We're here to support quality of life. Forcing someone to work 13 hours is not fair. Reducing drivers isn't fair."

Although transit rider Stuart Neatpy has been inconvenienced by the strike, he said he was there to support workers' rights.

He also wanted the drivers to know that not everyone is against them.

"It's the city's responsibility to maintain city services," said transit user and student Lynne Hunter. And this strike has shown that the city has failed, she said.

"I hope there's a strong No vote so the city will wake up," she said. "I want this strike over."

On Wednesday, city council will discuss options to mitigate the impact of the strike.

## Grocery store employees tied up in robbery

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**INVESTIGATION** For the third time in a month, grocery store employees were found tied up in their workplace early Thursday morning.

Investigators are exploring the possibility that the latest incident in Orleans is associated to similar incidents where store employees were bound in early morning grocery store robberies on Dec. 8 and 22 on Merivale Road.

"We're mindful that it appears to be the same people," said Ottawa Police Const. Al Boucher.

At approximately 5:40 a.m., Ottawa police responded to a robbery at The Independent grocery store at 1619 Orleans Blvd., where they found six store employees bound and confined in a closed area of the store.

Although some items were stolen in the incident, police did not say what they were.

There were no injuries to any of the employees.

The suspects fled the scene prior to police arrival. Police are now looking for three firearms-toting suspects.

The first suspect is an English-speaking male, between 20 and 22 years old, 5-foot-6, 125 pounds with blue eyes. He was wearing a beige vest, black balaclava and black gloves.

The second suspect is an English-speaking male, between 20-22 years old, 6-foot and between 180 and 190 pounds. He was wearing a green shirt, beige pants, black balaclava and black gloves.

Police don't have a description of the third suspect.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Robbery Section at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116, or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

**ShareYourViews**

ottawalatters@metronews.ca



The National Arts Centre board of trustees has extended Peter Herrndorf's appointment as president and CEO. Since his appointment in September 1999, Herrndorf has worked to strengthen the NAC's national role as well as its youth and education activities across Canada. His contract now runs through Aug. 31, 2011. **METRO OTTAWA**

# Local



## Snowshoe under the stars

Friends of Gatineau Park is hosting its Snowshoe under the Stars event on four Fridays, starting this week as a part of its 2009 Dusk Series. Visitors will discover how animals face the challenges of winter survival. The events are held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jan. 9 and 16 and Feb. 6 and 20. They begin at the visitor centre at 33 Scott Rd. in Chelsea. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for members and \$5 for children and includes snowshoes and hot chocolate. To register, call 819-827-2020. **METRO OTTAWA**

## Cops seek gas bar robber

**HEIST** Ottawa police are seeking a suspect after a lone male robbed a Petro-Canada gas station at gunpoint Thursday.

At approximately 12:40 p.m., a male suspect armed with a gun entered the Petro-Canada gas station located on the 3000 block of Woodroffe Avenue.

He robbed the store of an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing on foot.

There were no injuries.

Police are now seeking a thin black male, approximately 18 years old. The suspect was wearing a black jacket at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa police robbery unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

# More ice cleared for skaters

Rideau Canal Skateway open from Dow's Lake to Corkstown bridge

**TIM WIECLAWSKI**  
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**The National Capital Commission has cleared another five kilometres of the Rideau Canal Skateway for skating.**

Beginning Friday, skaters can travel a seven-kilometre stretch from Dow's Lake to the Corkstown pedestrian footbridge. The rest area at Patterson Creek will also open.

Ice tests conducted along the length of the Skateway showed the ice had reached at least 12 inches of thickness.

At the beginning of the skate season, Alain Nantel, who is responsible for the ice, said the NCC tests the

canal daily in about 40 locations.

Using an auger, they drill out a core sample to measure the depth of the ice, but Nantel said they are also concerned about the quality of the ice.

Ideally, they are looking for at least 12 inches of clear, solid ice. Ice that is cracked or opaque is considered lower quality.

The best quality ice is usually in the middle of Dow's Lake where the water is deepest. Nantel said the narrow, shallow parts of the canal are more vulnerable to undercurrents created by rain and melting snow.

"In places like Dow's Lake and near Fifth Avenue, it doesn't make that much of a difference. But in places

where it's more shallow and narrow like between Bank and Bronson downtown, then there's more decay of the ice," he said.

On New Year's Day, the NCC opened two kilometres between Pretoria Bridge and Bank Street.

Only an 800-metre section between the Corkstown pedestrian bridge and Rideau Street remain closed. The NCC is asking people not to venture onto the closed section of the Skateway where ice is considered unsafe.

The Rideau Canal is one of the official sites for Winterlude, which kicks off Feb. 6.

**ShareYourViews**

ottawaleaders@metronews.ca



The National Capital Commission's Alain Nantel, who is responsible for the Rideau Canal, confirms the depth and quality of the ice at the centre of Dow's Lake on Thursday morning.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** Prominent Canadians condemn Ottawa's stance on Gaza conflict at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Video** Michael Ignatieff vows low- and middle-income tax cuts to boost the economy at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)



**Lotteries**



Ontario Pick 3: 6 2 4; Ontario Pick 4: 8 6 9 4

Encore: 7953929

Daily Keno: 8, 10, 14, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 37  
42, 46, 48, 52, 56, 59, 62, 64, 66, 69

Payday: 30, 53, 63 & 77

These results are not official.

## More bang-ups in wake of snow

**TRACEY TONG**  
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The snow may have stopped by Thursday morning, but for police and paramedics, the day shaped up to be a busy one as commuters headed back to work.

"It was worse (Thursday) morning than it was compared to the two previous rush hours," said Ottawa paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier. "I suspect a lot of people worked from home on Wednesday. Perhaps that influenced it a little bit. It was worse in terms of the number of calls because of the road conditions."

Paramedics attended the

scene of dozens of minor collisions where drivers had slid off the road.

Paramedics receive a flood of calls every time there's a snow day, which can prove to be a strain on services, Trottier said.

"We'll have some people driving by (collisions) and call 911. We find ourselves going to a lot of calls where our services are not required."

Sixty or 70 per cent of the calls paramedics attended Thursday did not require medical assistance.

"It drains our resources, big time," said Trottier.

**"It drains our resources, big time."**

J.P. Trottier

Ottawa OPP were also busy Thursday morning, attending about a dozen collisions.

"It's been one call after another," said Const. Guy Prevost. "We had a few rollovers. Because snowbanks are so hard, the cars go sideways once

they hit the snowbank. And people have been going straight into the ditches."

Over in Gatineau, drivers were a bit more careful.

Police attended 43 weather-related collisions, including three with injuries, between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m. Thursday, said Constable Isabelle Poirier.

## Scholarships help offset cost of school for community housing tenants

**AWARDED** Back when the school year began, Loula Abib's mom suggested she apply for a new scholarship being offered by Ottawa Community Housing.

At first, the first-year uOttawa psychology student rejected the idea, thinking it would only be a waste of time. But her mom kept on her about it, and finally on the day of the deadline, Abib filled out the application, and promptly forgot about it.

A few weeks later, she learned she was a finalist for one of five \$1,000 Ron Larkin scholarship awards, for first-year post-secondary students living in community housing.

"It helps so much," she said. "My family is not that

### Larkin winners

- Abib, along with Carleton University students Samatar Yusuf, Sagal Osman, Molly Twikirize and Algonquin College robotics program student Irina Popova, received their scholarships at the OCH board meeting.

wealthy and university is kind of expensive."

The scholarship was named in recognition of retired as OCH CEO Ron Larkin.

"I hope that these scholarships will ease the financial burden associated with pursuing academic goals," said Larkin.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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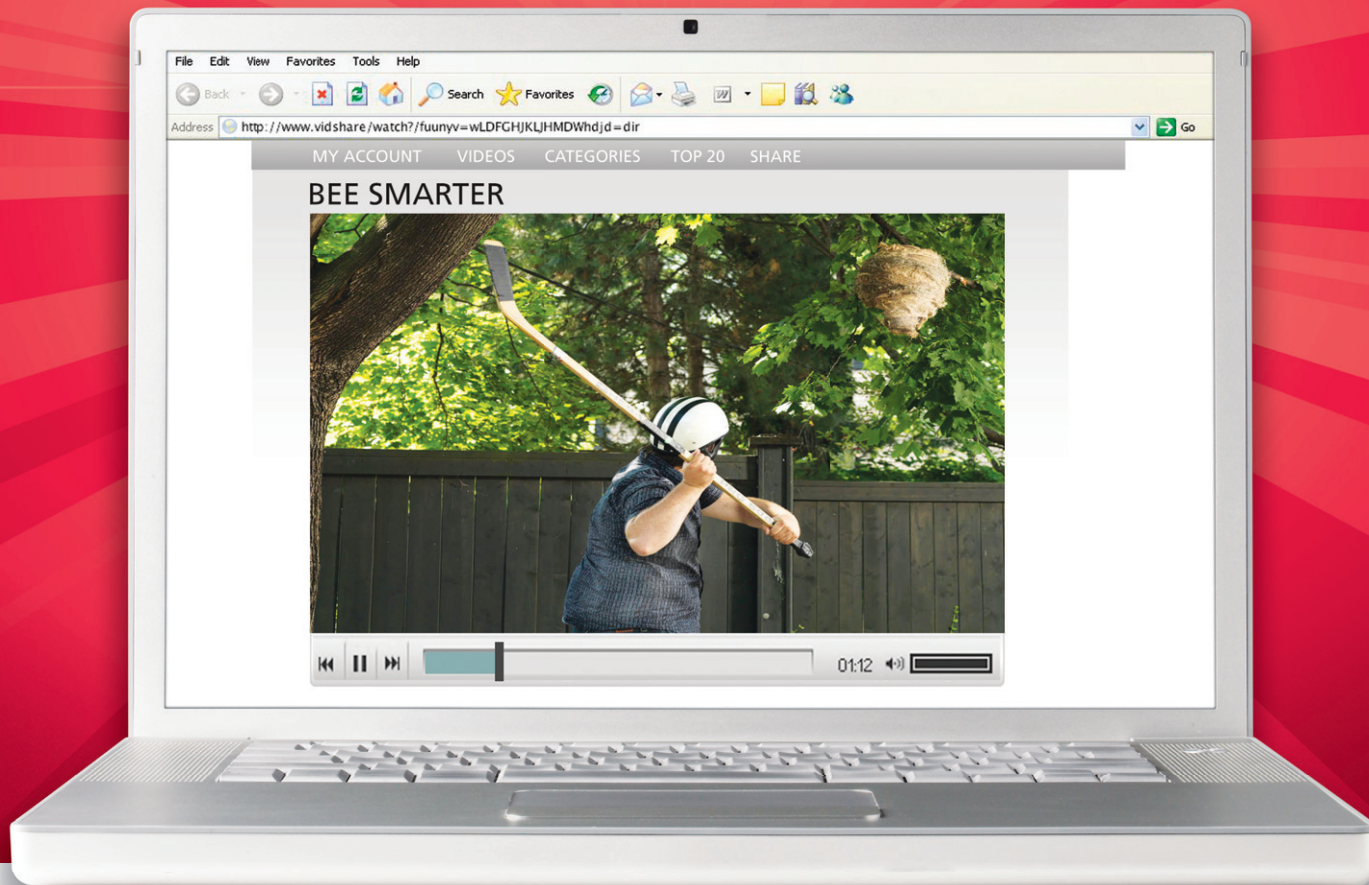
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**FIDO Rescue joins Petfinder.com**

Ottawa's FIDO Rescue recently joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list their homeless pets on Petfinder.com. The site currently lists 301,000 homeless pets. **METRO OTTAWA**

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## 4 local

# Reconnect with the sky

### Canadians asked to register their 'Galileo moments'

**TIM WIECLAWSKI**  
Metro Ottawa



**Last March, Christian Marois experienced a "Galileo moment."**

The National Research Council astronomer created images of three Jupiter-sized planets moving around a single star located approximately 130 light years away in the constellation Pegasus.

It was the first time in history humans were actually able to see planets orbiting other stars.

"In the past, there were some that were borderline, but nobody ever found something close to that before," said Marois. "Planets with mass similar to Jupiter have been found before, but the problem is that they were never orbiting around a star. They were orbiting around something called a brown dwarf."

Launched Thursday at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the Inter-



National Research Council astronomer Christian Marois holds up an artistic rendering Thursday of a recently discovered solar system during the launch of the Canadian international year of astronomy at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

national Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009 group is hoping to collect one million Galileo moments from

Canadians this year, which was chosen as the year of astronomy to commemorate the 400th anniversary

of Galileo Galilei's first observations of space using a telescope.

Canadian IYA executive committee chair Jim Hesser said they don't have to be quite as significant as discovering a solar system.

"We want to get people to reconnect with the sky," he said.

"It's a personal discovery to see something and know that it's real. It's not just a photograph from the Hubble space telescope."

As night becomes brighter from artificial light in cities, people are losing their connection with the sky. Hesser said they are encouraging people to make that connection again, either on their own, at star parties, planetariums or at special concerts.

Canadians can register their Galileo moments on the astronomy2009.ca website and have their name launched into space by the Canadian Space Agency aboard the NEOSat satellite in 2010.

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## Russia eyes restoration of gas supply to Europe

Russia's state-controlled gas monopoly said yesterday it would restore supplies to Europe through Ukraine, cut off after a dispute between Moscow and Kiev, as soon as international monitors are in place. The gas cutoffs have left hundreds of thousands of people in the Balkans without gas, forced factories to shut down and disrupted deliveries as far west as France and Germany. **REUTERS**

5

# Canada/World

## Blackmore claims religious persecution

Polygamist leader says charges are for political reasons

FERNANDO CARNEIRO  
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**One of the men facing polygamy charges in the British Columbia community of Bountiful said Thursday he's being persecuted for his religion.**

Winston Blackmore, who allegedly has more than 20 wives, told reporters in Creston, B.C., that he was being charged for political reasons. He said the timing of the charges was intended to help the current B.C. government "grandstand" ahead of this spring's provincial election.

Polygamy is illegal in Canada, a ban that Blackmore claims violates his re-

**"Polygamy is not about religion. It's about the power of men over women and children."**

Nancy Mereska

ligious freedom as guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Nancy Mereska, co-ordinator of Stop Polygamy in Canada, said she "absolutely rejects" Blackmore's claim.

"Polygamy is not about religion," she said. "It's about the power of men over women and children." She added that Part 1 of the Charter says the rights listed are subject to the laws of Canada.

"They can have whatever religious belief they want,

but when they practise a belief that is against the law, they are committing a crime."

Mereska said she believes that more charges are coming.

"I can see this going to the Supreme Court of Canada in about seven years, and I'm confident the Supreme Court is going to uphold our laws against polygamy."

ShareYourViews

ottawaleaders@metronews.ca

## Behaviour gap in non-racists: Report

**RACISM** When it comes to repudiation of racism, words speak louder than actions, according to a York University study that suggests people are far more tolerant of bigotry than they might express.

While they would condemn racism in advance, most non-black people would sit mute as blatant acts of anti-black racism occurred before them, according to the Toronto research, published Friday in the journal Science.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## News in brief

**EDUCATION** The school year for Ontario's public elementary students could be in jeopardy after the teachers union threatened to move toward a strike if "progress" isn't made on negotiations. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Politics Iggy's 'Rosedale gang?'



Questions are being asked about the way Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, shown here at a town hall meeting in Halifax on Thursday, is preparing to run the party. Ignatieff is expected to put so many of his Toronto faithful in backroom jobs that some are already calling it the "Rosedale gang."

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA

## Obama urges stimulus

Few new budget details in economic speech

**U.S. president-elect Barack Obama warned Thursday the U.S. economy could stay mired in recession for years without bold action, and he urged lawmakers to work day and night to pass a massive stimulus plan.**

Obama, who takes office Jan. 20, promised to set a new economic course and

to quickly toughen the financial regulatory system.

"I don't believe it's too late to change course, but it will be if we don't take dramatic action as soon as possible," Obama said at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

"If nothing is done, this recession could linger for years. The unemployment

rate could reach double digits."

But he gave few new details about the package of tax cuts and public-works spending likely to cost \$800 billion US or more.

Obama is seeking approval by mid-February of the stimulus package he is crafting with the Democratic-led Congress. **REUTERS**

## Pakistan OK'd gunman info, ex-adviser says

**SHOOTING** Pakistan's security agencies had authorized confirmation of the surviving Mumbai gunman was Pakistani, a former adviser said yesterday, adding he was sacked because the prime minister had been out of the loop.

India had said for weeks the gunman captured in Mumbai was from Pakistan, who replied that his name could not be found in a national database of citizens.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani fired the national security adviser, Mahmud Ali Durrani, on Wednesday, shortly after officials confirmed the gunman in Indian custody was Pakistani. Media in India interpreted his dismissal as a reaction to the news. But Durrani said authorities had already decided to confirm the gunman was Pakistani. **REUTERS**

## Jordan The next generation



Jordanian children hold toy guns as they shout anti-Israel slogans during a protest in Amman on Thursday against Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. A UN aid agency halted work in the region after two of its drivers were killed Thursday.

## UN passes Gaza ceasefire resolution

**MIDDLE EAST** The UN Security Council passed a resolution yesterday calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, an end to arms smuggling and Israel's full withdrawal after a 13-day offensive, but the U.S. abstained in the vote.

The vote followed days of haggling at the UN, with foreign ministers from Arab nations pressing France, Britain and the United States to go along with a resolution, rather than a more diluted president's statement. **REUTERS**

## News in brief

**INDIA** A teacher who blinded a girl by inserting a pin into one of her eyes will be charged with attempted murder, officials said. Police said the teacher used a pin to prick the six-year-old girl's right eye after she failed to answer a question in class.

**PAKISTAN** Al Qaeda's operations chief in Pakistan and a top lieutenant are believed to be dead, a U.S. official said yesterday. The operations chief, Usama al-Kini, was thought to be behind the truck bombing of a Marriott hotel in Islamabad that killed 55 people in

September, as well as other attacks, the official said.

**NEPAL** The United Nations human rights agency has urged Nepal's government to search for girls who went missing after their parents sold them into domestic service, and urged an end to the practice. **REUTERS**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Housing hidden troubles

Homebuyers should do research to avoid a fixer-upper

## Marketplace



Wendy Mesley

Buying a new house is probably the biggest purchase you will ever make. It's supposed to come with peace of mind, both financially and structurally. But some Canadians who bought new homes during the housing boom are just now finding out that new doesn't always mean trouble-free. And that could be a lot of people. Even with the economic slowdown, more than 83,600 new homes will be built in Canada this year. Joe and Joanne West of Hamilton have been in

**As with most things, you have to do a lot of work to make sure that what you are getting is a quality product.**

their new home for just three years. But within two weeks of moving in, part of their basement floor caved in. Within the next few months, they compiled a list of more than 100 problems, including serious leaks, an unsteady roof and shaky floors. So in addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on their new home, they had to spend thousands more to start fixing their house.

How does a new home become a fixer-upper? As with most things, you have to do a lot of work to make sure that what you

are getting is a quality product.

For the Wests, the problems started before they took possession. The City of Hamilton didn't issue a building permit, which is required by law, until five months after construction began. That means the builder started work on the house without the building plans reviewed by the city.

If the Wests were buying a new toaster, they could just take it back.

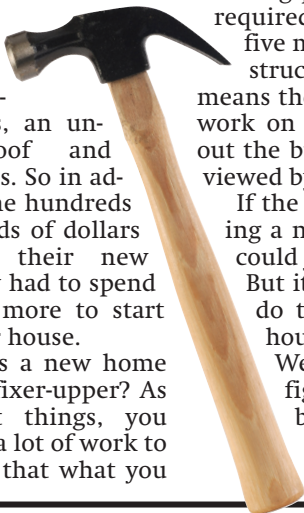
But it's not as easy to do that with a new house. Instead, the Wests began a fight with their builder, the City of Hamilton, and Tarion (On-

tario's new-home warranty program). In the end, they received a settlement from Tarion, but their fight still isn't settled with the builder or the city.

If you're worried about getting sunk with a money pit of a brand new home, there are things you can do:

Get references from your builder. Before buying, make sure your real-estate lawyer checks for any liens against the house and that an occupancy permit has been issued. Check that all building permits are issued. Get an independent inspector to check your home before you take possession.

Wendy Mesley is co-host of CBC TV's Marketplace. To learn more about new home buying pitfalls, check out this season's premiere episode, *New Home Nightmares*, Friday, Jan. 9 at 8:30 p.m. or go to [www.cbc.ca/marketplace](http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace).



## Views

# With airports, small & dull beats hectic

## UrbanCompass

Steve Collins

Ottawa's airport, in some ways, might as well be a bus station.

It's small enough that passing politicians find it difficult to dodge the media. This is where elusive Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, for example, got scrummed last September about his ill-advised listeriosis knee-slappers.

And it's dull. A frequent and perceptive flyer I know describes our humble plane stop as "entirely without charm or soul. I cannot think of anything unique, interesting, quirky, luxuri-

ous or otherwise worthy of text."

I think this may be its greatest virtue. If the airport was the most memorable part of your trip, something probably went wrong.

Last year, the Airports Council International's service quality awards rated Ottawa the second best small airport in the world. Halifax took first place.

On a recent flight, all the usual petty oppressions — removal of shoes, confiscation of verboten bottled water and shaving gel, no joking under penalty of law — are observed, but it's all done in a low-key, sensible, Ontarian way.

There's nary a frantic passenger in sight. We are bored, resigned, a bit cranky and waiting for it to be over. Soon, blandly and without a hitch, it is.

I land next in Chicago's

hectic O'Hare International Airport, and run down one endless concourse and up another just in time to miss my connection.

I am directed to a so-called service desk. Nobody from the airline is in sight, but I can stand in line for a phone and taste the thrill of flying standby in booked-solid holiday traffic.

The loudspeaker advises me that today's terror threat level, courtesy the ever-fearful U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is Orange. No specific threat, just generalized low-level official panic.

There's no place like home, but our small, dull airport isn't perfect. Ask the passengers who stewed for 12 hours last March on the tarmac, trapped in two Cubana planes without food, water or toilets. They'd been redirected from Mon-

treal in bad weather, and on landing, ignored by airline and airport alike.

A glitch in my return to Ottawa is far less dramatic. It's New Year's Day, a little after 9 p.m. We deplane only to find our entrance to the airport is locked. Down a ramp we go and find ourselves in the departure lounge, which is abandoned and locked up tight. It's unexpected, but nobody's visibly nervous. Several are laughing at the goofiness of our predicament. At Orange Alert O'Hare, it might be different.

A member of the ground crew soon arrives to unlock the friggin' door. Small, dull, and (mostly) efficient: What more could you ask for in an airport?

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa.

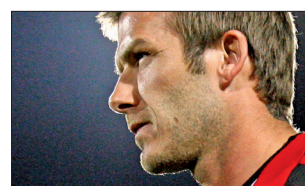
## Worth mentioning

# Has soccer star Beckham lost his footing in the ad world?

David Beckham's image as a global marketing icon may be showing its first cracks.

The soccer star, whose 10-year marketing relationship with PepsiCo recently ended, came to the U.S. in 2007 in a deal with Major League Soccer worth up to \$250 million US.

"Becks" was already an international star for his soccer skills, good looks and marriage to a former Spice Girl. But his U.S. tenure has been marred by injury and poor performance by his Los



David Beckham  
Angeles Galaxy team, and MLS TV ratings are stagnant.

"He is no longer a world-class athlete, and therefore has become less interesting," said Stephanus Tekle, consultant at SPORT+MARKT in Germany.

BEN KLAYMAN/REUTERS

## Quote of the Day

**"I was just floored ... to find out that the future commander-in-chief was actually going to be the future nerd-in-chief."**

— Marvel Comics editor-in-chief Joe Quesada, who said the idea for a new Spider-Man edition, *Spidey meets the President!*, came from a statement from U.S. president-elect Barack Obama that he collected Spider-Man comics. REUTERS

## Metro Online Poll Results

71% SAID YES

Should polygamy continue to be illegal in Canada?

29% SAID NO

Weigh in on today's question at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [ottawaletters@metronews.ca](mailto:ottawaletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



**Fraudsters digging through digital trash**

Identity thieves are resorting to buying second-hand drives from eBay and recovering "deleted" files, including some information that could be confidential. **REUTERS**

7

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## A sea change in banking habits

**Rising credit losses coupled with slowing loan growth spell a challenging year for the country's big banks.**

More Canadians are hunkering down and saving more money, sparking a swell in deposits growth at a time when demand for some consumer loans such as residential mortgages is fading.

Some banks are shifting their focus to bread-and-butter retail banking. Bank of Montreal, for example, says it has gained market

**"When you get unrest in the marketplace, money goes to safe havens."**

Chris Hodgson

share of deposits and predicts that consumers will be more inclined to save than borrow this year.

"When you get unrest in the marketplace, money goes to safe havens," said Chris Hodgson, head of do-

mestic banking at Scotia-bank.

GICs and high-interest savings accounts are proving popular and more growth is expected as Canadians flock to the new tax-free savings accounts.

Meanwhile, banks are bracing for slower demand for residential mortgages, higher default rates on loans and growing credit card balances as consumers rely more heavily on plastic money to get through the tough times.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Retail sales fared better than in U.S.

**FIGURES** While U.S. retailers reported what some analysts called the worst holiday sales in four decades, some said they fared better in Canada.

South of the border, a slew of American retailers issued profit warnings yesterday after reporting sharply lower same-store sales for December that could have repercussions for Canadian subsidiaries of chains, experts said.

An executive at RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust, a major Canadian retail landlord, said sales were down anywhere from three to 10 per cent on a same-store basis. These numbers are considered a key indicator of retail performance because they compare sales at stores open since this time last year. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### In brief

**OVERTIME** Five million Britons worked a total of \$40.53 billion US in unpaid overtime last year because of a "long-hours" culture and concern that the downturn was putting their jobs at risk, the Trades Union Congress said. It noted 2008's figure was the highest level since 1992.

**ENTERTAINMENT** DVD revenue in the United States fell by eight per cent in 2008, but a new report projects it's only a matter of time before Blu-ray begins to compensate for declining returns from traditional discs, an industry group said. Sales in the home entertainment industry fell six per cent last year. **REUTERS**

## Sony Light on wallet and weight



Japanese journalists look over a Sony P Series Lifestyle PC at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas on Wednesday. The computer weighs 1.4 pounds and is expected to be available next month for about \$900 US.

## Chrysler and GM Canada receive loan deferrals

**AUTOS** General Motors of Canada Ltd. and Chrysler Canada Inc. won't start receiving up to \$4 billion in government loans until the middle of the month after the companies requested a deferral.

The federal government confirmed yesterday that Ottawa and Queen's Park agreed to the request for the two-week delay in distribution of the loans, which was previously

scheduled to begin Dec. 29. Officials for both companies and the governments would not comment on the reasons for the requests for deferrals or any outstanding issues in talks.

GM was to get \$800 million on Dec. 29 in the first of three instalments and another \$2.2 billion by Feb. 27. Chrysler was to get an initial \$400 million and another \$600 million in instalments. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Pensions at risk if funds fail

**PENSIONS** Employees and retirees could expect drastic reductions in their pensions, if their companies can't survive long enough to fully fund defined-benefit plans.

Two leading actuarial firms estimated yesterday that investment losses and falling interest rates com-

bined to slash solvency funding levels, which measure a pension's health, by 28 per cent last year. The global credit crisis has sapped investor confidence and erased trillions of dollars of wealth, impairing pension plans of all stripes.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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The Canadian Soccer Association announced Thursday that Christine Sinclair, left, is the female selection for the 2008 adidas Canadian Player of the Year award. The 25-year old played 22 games for the national team in 2008, scoring 13 times. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



## Tavares traded

The Ontario Hockey League's London Knights acquired Team Canada hero John Tavares, left, from the Oshawa Generals Thursday. It is not known when he will make his Knights debut, but if he's in the lineup Friday, he'll face his former team as London hosts the Generals. Tavares is favoured to be the first pick in the 2009 NHL draft. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### Sports in brief

**NHL** The Senators' Dany Heatley was named to the NHL's Eastern Conference all-star team Thursday. Other notables named included Washington's Alexander Ovechkin and Jeff Carter of the Flyers. The game takes place Jan. 25 in Montreal.

**MLB** The Boston Red Sox agreed to terms with both pitcher John Smoltz and outfielder Rocco Baldelli on Thursday. Smoltz had played his entire 21-year career in Atlanta. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**SOCCER** Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo escaped unhurt Thursday after his car hit a roadside barrier. "No one was injured," Manchester Police said after the Portugal international's Ferrari crashed in a tunnel. **REUTERS**

# She's 40 and fast

## How a Nova Scotia single mother ran into history

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**As a single mother of three, it goes without saying that Denise Robson does plenty of running around.**

But Robson is not just a single mother of three; she's also the fastest 40-and-older marathoner in Canadian history. And for her, running around involves a lot more than the traditional duties of parenthood.

The 40-year-old Nova Scotia woman fits in training whenever she can: shorter runs on her lunch breaks; longer 12-kilometre runs from her office to her home after she's done work.

"I shake my head all the time," Robson groans, at how she manages training with girls aged eight, 10 and 12.

"I have to balance things because it's important my running time isn't taking away from my time with my kids."

Robson was a cross-country runner during her university days, but quit "cold turkey" 19 years ago. It wasn't until five years ago that she took it back up. She had no grand visions of running a 42.2-kilometre marathon. She was going through a separation and just wanted to relieve some stress.

"A co-worker asked me to join them for a lunch-time run," she recalls. "I thought, 'Hmm, why not? Some time away from my desk, some fresh air? It would do me good.'"

Five months later, Robson entered the Prince Edward Island Marathon "just to say I'd done it."

"It was totally as a lark," she says.

It turned out to be a lot more than that. She was the fastest woman in the P.E.I. Marathon with a time of three hours, 13 minutes, and qualified for the Boston Marathon — something that usually takes years of training — by more than 30 minutes.

"Everyone was like, 'OK, wait a minute, you've got something here, Denise,'" she says. "It's been an addiction ever since."

Her times improved continuously, and last month, she smashed the

country's 17-year-old masters record (and her personal best) by more than three minutes, running the California International Marathon in Sacramento in 2:41:12.

Robson was taken aback when she was informed a week after the marathon that she had made history.

"I was like, 'You've got the wrong person here. Are you kidding me, 2:41 is the record? Great, but I'm gonna be faster next year,'" says Robson. Her goal is to crack the two-hour, 40-minute barrier this year, and says the key to her success might be the 14-year break she took from running. Many elite marathoners her age have run more miles and suffered more wear and tear.

Now, she wants to make up for lost time.

"I'm living a dream at 40 that I should have been living at 20," she says. "I missed that opportunity at 20, so now I'm going to run with it as far as I can, no pun intended."



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# Road trip comes to a merciful end

**NHL RESULT**

Senators 4 Bruins 6



VS



**THE SKINNY:** Ottawa overcame a pair of two-goal deficits to tie the score going into the third period, but couldn't match the Bruins offensive power in the final 20 minutes.

**THE FIRST TO 30:** With the victory, the Boston Bruins become the first team in the

NHL with 30 wins this season.

**HOME AT LAST:** With another loss, the Senators finish their eight game road trip 1-6-1.

**THE LACK OF SCORING:** Besides Dany Heatley, Jason Spezza and Daniel Alfredsson, no other Ottawa forward has more than 12 points this season.

**BITING THE BULLET:** Jarkko Ruutu sat out the first of a two game suspension for biting Buffalo's Andrew Peters on Tuesday.

**THE NEXT GAME:** The Sena-



**Jason Spezza lunges for a loose puck last night.**

tors play their first home game in exactly three weeks when they welcome the Rangers to

Scotiabank Place Saturday night.

**MIKE BEASLEY/FOR METRO OTTAWA**



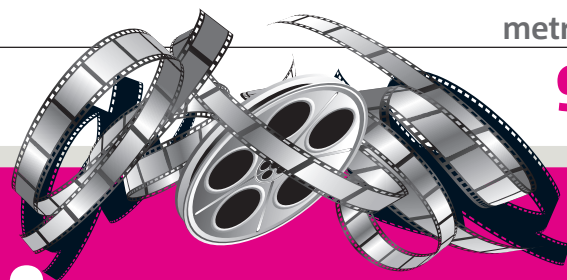
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# Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, [DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA](mailto:DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA)

## Movies

### Battle of the brides

Pg 10



Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway actually made a few funnies in the film *Bride Wars*. Although the storyline is pretty predictable, the cynical, cutthroat humour comes with a good dollop of wit that offers a refreshing surprise.

## movies

Pg 11



Kevin James puts heart, soul and big butt into *Mall Cop*.

## music

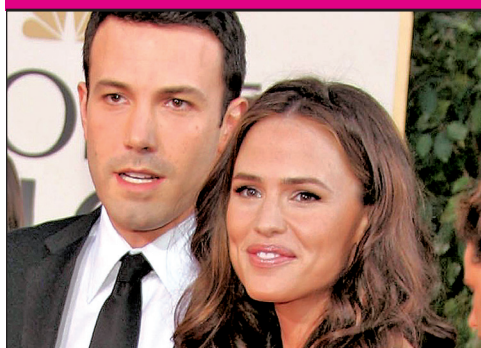
Pg 13



Sam Roberts shares insights on how Canadians rock.

## 7th heaven

Pg 16



Why does this couple make our weekly hot list?

Peter Howell, VOICE OF THE GTA  
TORONTO STAR  
[thestar.com](http://thestar.com)

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Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Married to predictability

Bride Wars

Director: Gary Winick

Stars: Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●

ROBYN YOUNG

for Metro Canada

Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway actually made a few funnies in the film Bride Wars.

The generically-titled flick about two BFFs turned frenemies in the preamble to their coinciding nuptials is just in time for one of the most popular wedding-movie months of the year. And although the storyline is gag-me-with-a-spoon predictable, the cynical, cut-throat humour comes with a good dollop of wit that offers a refreshing surprise. Emma (Hathaway) and Liv (Hudson) have been best friends since grade school and both have dreamed of June weddings at the Plaza Hotel in New York City since catching a



Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway transform from best friends to bridezillas when their weddings are booked on the same day.

peek of one while attending tea service with their mothers as youngsters. The live-in boyfriends of each (played by Chris Pratt and Steve Howey) end up proposing around the same time, a scheduling mix-up with fictionally infamous wedding planner Marion St. Claire (Candice Bergen) follows, and — voila! — a nightmare is born. The bosom buddies' weddings are booked on the same day, at the same time, in adjacent rooms and neither bride will relinquish her date or location. Resentment builds until it explodes into an all-out war on the day of their shared wedding shower. “Your wedding better watch it!” shouts Hudson. “Your wedding better sleep with one eye open.” Since it’s January and most of us have spent the last two months being overly nice to everyone in our paths, it comes as a bit of a treat to indulge in the sabotage-fest that ensues. It’s tiring being nice all the

On the web

• To see a Bride Wars trailer, and for more pictures from the movies, visit metronews.ca/movies

time as Hathaway’s character Emma discovers part way through the film. Greg DePaul and Casey Wilson probably could have written the screenplay in their sleep, but much of the dialogue is intelligent and Kristen Johnston (Third Rock from the Sun) puts on a decent supporting actress performance as Emma’s unstable colleague-turned-maid-of-honour-by-default. The main disappointment is director Gary Winick’s decision to go with the melodramatic ending that tries to suck a few tears out of the audience. It ends up overplayed with a vomit-inducing result. Otherwise, it’ll be a decent rental for a Friday night in February.

Character fun to watch, but morality feels heavy

Gran Torino

Director: Clint Eastwood

Stars: Clint Eastwood

Classification: 14A

Rating: ●● 1/2

STEVE GOW

for Metro Canada

REVIEW Clint Eastwood thinks America’s gone soft and he wants you to know it. First, the 78-year-old acting legend told Esquire Magazine that people were “tougher” when he was a kid and that much of his “childhood was spent punching the bullies out.” Now, with his latest drama Gran Torino, Eastwood puts his words into deeds playing bigoted veteran Walt Kowalski, a character that perhaps, like Clint himself, would rather put up than shut up. Kowalski just wants to be left alone but as he sits on his porch sipping beer, lamenting the disregard of youth and the growing ethnicity of his neighbourhood, he reluctantly finds

himself developing a chummy relationship with his Hmong neighbours after he scares off pestering gang-bangers with a shotgun grumbling, “Get off my lawn.” If that slice of dialogue sounds like it was uttered by Eastwood’s own Dirty Harry, it’s certainly not by mistake. In fact, Gran Torino is an obvious tribute to the toughness of Eastwood’s career. Kowalski isn’t so much a character as he is the symbol of an era and this film, a moral lesson of changing times. Perhaps because of this, Gran Torino’s set-up does feel somewhat mawkish, even satirical at times. While Eastwood is agonizingly fun to watch — think Archie Bunker with a trigger finger — Torino’s morality feels heavy-handed and tone uneven. Sure, it plays out like a eulogy to a tremendous career but while Eastwood’s surely worth celebrating, I’m not convinced his Gran Torino is.

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE (Drama)

BEST DIRECTOR David Fincher

BEST ACTOR (Drama) Brad Pitt

BEST SCREENPLAY Screenplay by Eric Roth Story by Eric Roth and Robin Swicord

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE Alexandre Desplat

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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— Peter Travers

NEW YORK POST

“★★★★★ A CLASSIC FOR THE AGES. Brad Pitt gives a deeply soulful and affecting performance. Cate Blanchett is luminous.”

— Lou Lumenick

BRAD PITT

CATE BLANCHETT

The Curious Case Of BENJAMIN BUTTON

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A DAVID FINCHER FILM BRAD PITT CATE BLANCHETT “THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON” TARA J. P. HENSON JULIA ORMOND JASON FLEMING ELIAS KOTÉAS AND TILDA SWINTON MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DESPLAT EDITOR MARK BAXTER ANBUS WALL PRODUCED BY KATHLEEN KENNEDY FRANK MARSHALL GÉA CHAFFIN FROM THE SHORT STORY BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD SCREENPLAY BY ERIC ROTH AND ROBIN SWICORD DIRECTED BY DAVID FINCHER

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**Viacom renews Paramount contract**

Viacom Inc. renewed the contract of Paramount Pictures chief executive Brad Grey for a period of five years, a person close to the company said yesterday. **REUTERS**

**Movies**

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# Northern frights revisited

**CHRIS ALEXANDER**  
for Metro Canada



**Next week, as horror movie fans across the globe prepare to get a torrent of blood, pick axes and various viscera splattered onto their laps in Patrick Lussier's 3-D remake of My Bloody Valentine, it's a good time to reflect on the fact that director George Mihalka's original 1981 mad miner slasher epic was a prime piece of Canadian shock.**

The original — shot in Sydney Mines, N.S. — was one of many northern frights whose international popularity helped shape one of the most fascinating periods in our film history. Yep, Canada was once a major hub for horror.

The first kick at the creepy Cancon can came with 1961's *The Mask*, a lowbrow 3-D picture that opened the gates for a glorious wave of eerie ex-

ploitation filmmaking.

Later, a couple of enterprising Montreal-based cinema-slingers, John Dunning and Andre Link, formed Cinepix, a distribution house that released Kung Fu (they were the first outfit to distribute Bruce Lee films in North America), horror and sex comedies and would make the most profound impact, discovering both Ivan Reitman (who unleashed the cult Eugene Levy/Andrea Martin gore classic *Cannibal Girls* in 1973) and perhaps most importantly, David Cronenberg.

It was Dunning and Link — Canada's equivalent to American International Pictures — who funded early icky Cronenberg efforts, like 1975's *Shivers* and the following year's *Rabid*; tirelessly defending his controversial work and helping to put the young auteur on the map.

Cinepix would eventually spit out scads of unsa-



Jensen Ackles stars as Tom Hanniger in *My Bloody Valentine 3-D*.

very fare like the legendary *Ilsa She Wolf of the SS* (it's rumoured that Reitman himself wrote that gruesome film under a pseudonym) and would capitalize on the stalk and slash trend sparked by both *Halloween* and the

far bloodier Friday the 13th with J. Lee Thompson's shish kebob abusing *Happy Birthday To Me* and, of course, *My Bloody Valentine*.

Though Dunning and Link weren't the only ones making waves in the

realms of the weird — Bob Clark's landmark 1975 thriller *Black Christmas* still stands as the quintessential Canadian stomach turner — their joyously un-PC efforts were groundbreaking.

And these days, with

## Eastern promises

• Halifax-based filmmaker Jason Eisener landed on the lurid movie



map in Jason 2007 after Eisener his crowd-pleasing *Hobo with a Shotgun* won the Tarantino/Rodriguez Grindhouse mock trailer contest. Now his brilliant and hilariously grotesque short film *Treevenge* will be featured at none other than the Sundance Film Festival. Go to [treevenge.com](http://treevenge.com) for more information.

American producers opting to shoot movies like *Saw* and *Silent Hill* in our streets (even zombie master George Romero moved to Toronto in 2004) and homegrown heroes like East Coast upstart Jason Eisener drawing attention, it's only a matter of time before the term "hoser" becomes synonymous with horror once more.

## James dreams big with Mall Cop

**STEVE GOW**  
for Metro Canada



After a nine year run on TV's *The King of Queens*, Kevin James now has big plans to become a movie star. To some, that may sound like a lofty goal but not to the 43-year-old comic. After all, his comedy heroes were also quite big. Literally.

"Jackie Gleason was a guy who could move and was a big guy," James immediately said when asked of his idols during a recent interview. "I loved all the big guys —

(John) Belushi, (John) Candy, Chris Farley — I had a connection to those guys and being (larger) myself, I really, really enjoyed how they moved and their style."

If James doesn't achieve his heroes' level of fame, it surely isn't for lack of physical ability. In his new big-screen comedy *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* (in theatres next Friday) James plays a bumbling unarmed security guard who must defend his shopping centre from a gang of gun-wielding terrorists. In the process, he falls 45 feet through a glass skylight, gets

punched out by a woman and wipes out into several large objects.

"We wanted it to be really, really physical and make it an action-comedy and we did, we went hard," said James, who also co-wrote the film. "I went crazy for this movie because I said, 'this is my idea, if I'm going to be out on the line, I'm going to push it,' and we certainly did."



Kevin James in *Mall Cop*.

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 9 TO THURS., JAN. 15. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 4:15 Sat 1:45

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Doubt (PG) Fri 9:25 Sat 6:55 Sun 1:30-6:50 Mon 4:30 Tue-Thu 7:05

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Repo! The Genetic Opera (18A) Sun 9:05 Mon 6:45 Tue-Thu 9:20

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Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:40

Bride Wars (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:40-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:45-7:40-10

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 4:20-8

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Tue 6:30-9:20 Wed 9:20 Thu 6:30-9:20

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:30

Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 1-4-7-9:55 No Passes Sat 1-4:10-7-9:55 No Passes Sun 1-4-7-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-7-9:55

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 1:15-4:05 Sat 4:05 Sun 1:15-4:05 Mon-Thu 4:05

Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:25-7:15-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 1

Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Twilight (PG) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:20

The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-3:520-7:50-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50-10:15

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:30

Yes Man (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-10:10

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111 Albert St., 3rd Floor World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8

Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:30

Milk (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:35

The Reader (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:20

Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun

1:30-4:30-7:9:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:45

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:40 Mon-Tue 4:10-6:50-9:40 Wed 4:10-9:40 Thu 4:10-6:50-9:40

Yes Man (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:20-7:10-9:25 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:10-9:25 Thu 4:20-9:25

MAYFAIR THEATRE

1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 7

Choke (18A) Sat 5 Sun 7 Mon-Tue 9:30

Eraserhead (STC) Fri 10

Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Sat 2:30 Sun 4:30-9 Mon-Tue 7

The Machine Girl (STC) Wed 7 Thu 9:30

Showgirls (STC) Sat 10

Speed Racer (PG) Sun 1:30

Tokyo Gore Police (STC) Wed 9:15 Thu 7

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA

710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218 familycinema.ca

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS

St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05-1:25-4:45-8

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:15-2:10-4:30

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:10

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-1-2:55-7:15

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 10-12-10:230-4:50

Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-7:25

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:25

The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 5-9:15

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20-5:10-9:40

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS

50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Bride Wars (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:15-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:20

Gran Torino (14A) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:45-6:30-9 No Passes, Dol-by Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9

Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 4-6:45-9:10 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:10

SOUTH KEYS

2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 10:05-12:50-4:20-7:20-10

Bride Wars (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:15-12:30-3:520-7:40-10

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 10-1:35-5:15-8:55

Doubt (PG) Fri 10:15-12:45-3:30-6:15-8:45 Sat 10-6:15-8:45 Sun-Thu 10:15-12:45-3:30-6:15-8:45

Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:10-12:55-3:40-6:25-9:10

Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:20-4-7-9:40

Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 1

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 6:55-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 6:55-9:30

Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:05-

6:20-9:20

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:20-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50

Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 10:20-1:05-3:45 Wed 10:20-1:05-3:35 Thu 10:20-1:05-3:45

The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri 10:40-1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:05 No Passes Sat 10:40-1-3:15-5:30-7:45-9:55 No Passes Sun-Thu 10:40-1-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:05

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 11-2-4:30-7:15-9:55

Yes Man (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:15-3:50-6:35-9:15

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION

100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Sat 12-3-8-10 Sun 12-3-6 Tue 12-3-8 Wed 12-3 Thu 12-3-8

Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Sat 1 Sun 4 Tue 4 Wed 1-8 Thu 1

Mummies: Secret des Pharaons (STC) Sat 10-4 Sun 10-1 Tue 1-7 Wed 4-9 Thu 4

Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Sat 11-2-5-7-9 Sun 11-2-5 Tue 11-2-5-9 Wed 11-2-5-7 Thu 11-2-5-7-9

CINÉ-CAMPUS UQO

283 rue St-Jean-Bosco, 819-773-1888

Listings not available at press time.

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER

400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Sun 1-3-7-9 Mon 7 Tue 7-9 Wed-Thu 9

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:10

Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:20

Rumba (PG) Tue 1-3 Wed-Thu 7

The Unborn (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30

CINÉ-STARZ

1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Australie (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-6:15-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:35-4-25-7:15

Le Chihuahua de Beverly Hills (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:35-4:40 Mon-Thu 12

High School Musical 3: La dernière année (G) Fri-Sun 1:35-3:35-7:15 Mon-Thu 12-3:40-5:35

Quantum of Solace (13+) Fri-Sun 12-4:40-6:30-8:20 Mon-Thu 1:35-5-7

Quatre Noël (G) Fri-Sun 12-3:10 Mon-Thu 12-3:25-8:50

Transporteur 3 (13+) Fri-Sun 5:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:55-7:30-9:15

Volt (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:40-3:20-5-6:40-8:20

GATINEAU 9

120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Babine (STC) Fri 6:20-9 Sat-Sun 12-2:45-6:20-9 Mon 6:20-9 Tue 12-2:45-6:20-9 Wed-Thu 6:20-9

Gran Torino v.f. (13+) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3:35-7-9:40 No Passes Mon 7-9:40 No Passes Tue 1-3:35-7-9:40 No Passes Wed 6:55-9:40 No Passes Thu 7-9:40

Le Grand Départ (STC) Fri 7:25-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:25-9:50 Mon 7:25-9:50 Tue 1:30-4:10-7:25-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:50

La guerre des mariées (G) No Passes

Fri 6:50-9:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:05 No Passes Mon 6:50-9:05 No Passes Tue 1:20-4-6:50-9:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:05

Histoires enchantées (G) Fri 7:05-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:10-7:05-9:15 Mon 7:05-9:15 Tue 12:50-3:10-7:05-9:15 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:15

L'étrange histoire de Benjamin Button (G) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:40-4:15-8 Mon 8 Tue 12:40-4:15-8 Wed-Thu 8

Marley et moi (G) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:45-7:20-9:45 Mon 7:20-9:45 Tue 1:10-3:45-7:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:45

Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 1

Monsieur Oui (G) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 12:15-6:45 Mon 6:45 Tue 12:15-6:45 Wed-Thu 6:45

Sept vies (G) Fri 9:20 Sat-Sun 3-9:20 Mon 9:20 Tue 3-9:20 Wed-Thu 9:20

Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat 3:15-6:30-9:10 Sun 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:10 Mon 6:30-9:10 Tue 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:10 Wed 9:10 Thu 6:30-9:10

STARCITÉ HULL

115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Babine (STC) Fri-Thu 4:45-7:15-9:45

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:40

Bride Wars (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-9:35

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (G) Fri-Thu 2-5:30-9

The Day the Earth Stood Still (G) Fri-Thu 9:30

Gran Torino (13+) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:10-9:50

Le Grand Départ (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-7-9:25

Histoires enchantées (G) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:30-6:45-9:20

L'étrange histoire de Benjamin Button (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-5-8:30

Madagascar 2 : La grande évasion (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:40

Marley & Me (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-6:35-9:15

Marley et moi (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:55

Quantum of Solace (13+) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:10

The Reader (13+) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:30-9:10

Seven Pounds (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:20-7-9:50

The Unborn (13+) Fri-Thu 12:40-3-5:10-7:20-9:30

Valkyrie (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:40-9:05

Volt in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:35

Yes Man (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-7:15-9:45

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS

131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-9

Bride Wars (PG) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 8:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 5-8:40

Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10 Star &

Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

Marley & Me (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30 Mon-Thu 5:20

Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:20

Yes Man (PG) Fri-Sun 6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 8

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY

2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:20-7:05-9:55

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Fri 8:40-2:30-5-7:30-10 Sat-Wed 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Thu 12-2:30-5-10

Bride Wars (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4:20-6:55-9:30 No Passes Wed 4:20-6:55-9:30 No Passes Thu 1-4:20-6:55-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-5:10-8-8:45 Wed 1:15-5:10-8:45 Thu 1:15-5:10-8-8:45

The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45

Doubt (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:50-6:50-9:25 Wed 3:50-6:50-9:25 Thu 1-3:50-6:50-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:40

Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:20-9:10

Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine (STC) Sat 1

Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 12:40-3:35-6:25-9:05 Sat 3:35-6:25-9:05 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:25-9:05

The Reader (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-7:25-10:15 Mon 12:25-3:30-10:15 Tue 12:25-3:30-7:25-10:15 Wed 12:25-3:30-10:15 Thu 12:25-3:30-7:25-10:15

Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:45-5:15 Wed 12:05-2:45 Thu 12:05-2:45-5:15

Twilight (PG) Fri 12:10-3:25-6:35-9:35 Sat 3:25-6:35-9:35 Sun-Wed 12:10-3:25-6:35-9:35 Thu 12:10-3:25-9:35

The Unborn (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:35-10:20

Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:15-10:05

Yes Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:50

ORLEANS

ORLEANS TOWN CENTRE 6 CINEMAS

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Babine (STC) Thu 7

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:15

Bride Wars (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 8

Marley & Me (PG) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:05 Thu 11

The Unborn (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:20

Yes Man (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:40-9:10 Mon-Wed 6:40-9 Thu 9:30

KANATA

KANATA 24

801 Earl Gray Dr., 613-599-1200

Australia (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:35-6:05-9:35 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:05-2:35-6:05-9:35 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:35-6:05-9:35

Bedtime Stories (G) SDDS Digital Fri 1:40-3-4:25-5:25-7:05-7:50-9:40-10:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:15-12:35-1:40-3-4:25-5:25-7:05-7:50-9:40-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 3-4:25-5:25-7:05-7:50-9:40-10:15

Bolt (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:05-4:30 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:40-2:05-4:30 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:30

Bride Wars (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1-2:40-3:10-4:55-5:25-7:15-7:45-9:30-10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:55-12:45-2-40-3:10-4:55-5:25-7:15-7:45-9:30-10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:40-3:10-4:55-5:25-7:15-7:45-9:30-10

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1-2:30-4:30-6-8:15-9:35 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11-1-2:30-4:30-6-8:15-9:35 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:30-4:30-6-8:15-9:35

The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:35-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:30-10:05 Thu 4:50

Doubt (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1:50-4:20-7-9:40 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:25-1:50-4:20-7-9:40 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:40

Gran Torino (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:30-2-4:15-4:45-7:05-7:35-9:50-10:20 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11-1:30-2-4:15-4:45-7:05-7:35-9:50-10:20 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:45-4:15-5:30-7:05-8:20-9:50

Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1:25-2:25-4:05-5:05-7:10-7:45-9:50-10:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:25-1:25-2:25-4:05-5:05-7:10-7:45-9:50-10:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:25-4:05-5:05-7:10-7:45-9:50-10:20

Milk (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:05-4:10-7:20-10:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:10

Quantum of Solace (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:25-5:05-7:35-10:10 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:35-10:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:35-10:10

Seven Pounds (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-9:55 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 4-7:10-9:55 SDDS Digital Thu 4

The Spirit (14A) SDDS Digital Fri 2-4:45-7:25-10 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:20-2-4:45-7:25-10 SDDS Digital Mon-Tue 4:45-7:25-10 SDDS Digital Wed 4:45-10 SDDS Digital Thu 4:45-7:25-10

The Tale of Despereaux (G) SDDS Digital Fri 2:35-5-7:20-9:40 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:50-2:35-5-7:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:35-5-7:20-9:40 SDDS Digital Thu 2:35

Twilight (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:10

The Unborn (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2:45-5-7:15-9:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:25-2:45-5-7:15-9:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:45-5-7:15-9:30

Valkyrie (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1:55-4:40-7:30-9:45-10:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:30-9:45-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-9:45-10:15

Yes Man (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 1:15-2:30-3:45-5:10-6:30-7:40-9:15-10:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:45-1:15-2:30-3:45-5:10-6:30-7:40-9:15-10:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:30-3:45-5:10-6:30-7:40-9:15-10:20 SDDS Digital Thu 2:30-3:45-5:10-7:40-10:20



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## Billboard's top albums

1. Fearless, Taylor Swift, right; 2. I AM ... SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé; 3. 80s and Heartbreak, Kanye West; 4. Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artists; 5. Dark Horse, Nickelback. REUTERS



## Music

# Sam Roberts goes coastal

JIM REYNO  
Metro Canada



## Sam Roberts: Juno-winning rocker, hockey-playing Quebec native ... future sociologist?

"It would be an interesting study to go province by province and make some sort of blanket cultural statement based on the response crowds give to a rock 'n' roll band," Roberts said in a phone interview.

"There really is a huge, huge shift from one place to the next."

He would know. Roberts is in the midst of a Canadian tour that will bring him across the country. He first



Touring has taught Sam Roberts, centre, that Canadians all love to rock, but we rock in different ways.

toured Canada in 2002. Since then, he's crisscrossed the country...

"I don't have the exact number," he said. "But it's a helluva lot!"

And here's what he's found: We all love to rock, but we rock in different

ways. "Sometimes, there are unbelievable shifts in the way people respond to rock 'n' roll music ... What you learn over the years is it's not necessarily that they don't like it — that's the collective behaviour, that's the collective response."

"So when you go to Saskatchewan, the response is completely different than the completely over-the-top, bordering on out-of-control response you get in the Atlantic provinces."

Unlike some artists, Roberts makes it a point to

## In concert

- Sam Roberts plays the Bronson Centre (with The Stills) Jan. 30 and 31.

go coast to coast when he goes on tour.

"What we've done right from the beginning is try to hit all 10 provinces at least on our run across the country," said Roberts, whose most recent album, Love at the End of the World, was released in May. "We just figured that's how you do it!"

"I guess we consider ourselves a band that prides itself on getting out there and playing for anybody who will listen to us."

# New iTunes: More questions than answers

## SoundCheck

Alan Cross



alan@ongoinghistory.com

We've had a couple of days to digest the big announcement from Apple at Macworld about the significant changes to iTunes, starting in April.

First, there were three tiers of pricing. Older tracks will be discounted, selling for 69 cents. Newer and more popular tracks will go

for either 99 cents or \$1.29. This is something the record labels have been screaming for. They've wanted variable pricing.

But the second announcement is the big one: No more digital locks on the songs.

If you've ever tried to share a song you bought from iTunes with a friend, you'll know you can't. Everything is locked to you, your computer and your device. But with no digital rights management or DRM, you can do whatever you want with a music file: Move it from device to device, burn copies and share it with friends.

And it wasn't Apple that wanted to keep DRM in

place. Steve Jobs was calling for an end to digital locks as far back as February 2007. It took this long for all the labels to agree to drop the copy protection.

But what about all the songs you've already purchased from iTunes? I myself have hundreds. The good news is that we'll be able to upgrade them to DRM-free versions — but for 30 cents a song. That's still gonna hurt, but at least you can jailbreak the songs you want.

And that's still not all. When DRM disappears in April, any company can now make a music player that will work with iTunes. Up until now, the only portable players that

worked with iTunes were all the flavours of iPod. Not anymore.

Question: What does this mean for the record labels now that DRM is effectively

dead? They won't be able to control how consumers buy and listen to music.

Read more at [ongoinghistory.com](http://ongoinghistory.com) and [exploremusic.com](http://exploremusic.com)

## Metro recommends

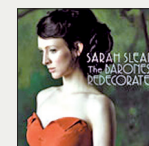
### ANTONY AND THE JOHNSONS, ANOTHER WORLD EP:

Vibrato-voiced eccentric tones down his haunting sound for unique, somber piano ballads and bawdy blues ramblin'.



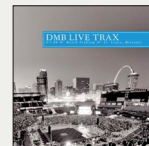
### SARAH SLEAN, THE BARONESS REDECORATES:

T.O. chanteuse invigorates her sound with classical strings for a lush on this collection of tracks cut from her album The Baroness.



### DAVE MATTHEWS BAND, DMB LIVE TRAX VOL. 13:

This fun-filled June 2008 show held at a Colorado baseball stadium includes impressive covers of classic Neil Young and Sly & the Family Stone cuts. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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**CONVERGYS**  
Outthinking Outdoing







Looks like Donna Martin will return to 90210 after all. Tori Spelling is in "final negotiations" to return to the world's most famous zip code, a show rep confirmed to People magazine. **PEOPLE.COM**

## Television

# TV's six degrees of separation

### IntelVision

**Rick McGinnis**

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

**ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER:** This week's TV news contains a string of items that seem to effortlessly segue into each other, so who am I to be an obstacle to such elegance? First off is a Variety story on the latest feint by NBC at pretending it's a network that cares

about programming, a drama about a man on his way to rock bottom who starts hearing music in his head that provides a clue to the direction he should be taking, at which point a new piece of music takes its place.

"I was trying to find a way to combine TV and music in an organic way," said writer and creator Jared Bush. "What we come to realize in the show is this guy has been given an opportunity to start his life over, and this music will help him find a way to become truly happy."

**(NBC's new show) has been given the simple but straightforward title Soundtrack, and actually sounds like a half-decent idea.**

The show — which gives an explicit shout-out to the music supervisor who'll have to dig up and clear the tunes for the storyline — has been given the simple but straightforward title Soundtrack, and actually sounds like a half-decent idea...

**QUITE UNLIKE ...** Dancing To The Music In My Head is the new EP by Sanjaya Malakar,

which has just been released. Does anyone remember Sanjaya Malakar? Two years is a long time in American Idol terms, and it's hard not to look back on the more-hair-than-voice season six contestant as a symbol of our onetime irrational exuberance, like easy mortgages and high-risk mutual funds.

**WHICH BRINGS ME TO:** Former

Idol executive producer Nigel Lythgoe, expressing his disapproval of the addition of a fourth judge to the Idol panel this season. "At this stage when we have this dysfunctional family of Ryan, Randy, Paula and Simon," Lythgoe told the National Ledger website, describing his reaction to the casting of songwriter Kara DioGuardi.

"You introduce someone else into that and it's like bringing a daughter-in-law into the family. You don't know if she's going to get in the way."

"It's something that I

fought for a number of years simply because once you've been told you suck by one judge, you don't need to hear it from another three," Lythgoe said. I would disagree; if something or someone sucks, you can't say it enough times, usually because you're dealing with gargantuan self-esteem that begs to be nuked.

And thus we have a Sanjaya record, two years after the fact; I rest my case.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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## Mandel goes undercover

**TELEVISION** Howie Mandel tosses his hat into the hidden-camera arena with Howie Do It, a reasonably entertaining piece of whimsy. The show premieres on NBC on Friday, and simultaneously in Canada on Global Television.

The improbable "it" guy of the moment — thanks to the monumental success of Deal or No Deal — has an annoying habit of always reacting to his own jokes. But the actual situations are fairly clever, and the marks are treated with a degree of quasi-humanity, if not exactly respect.

There's the poor schmo working for a singing telegram service who is



Howie Mandel

sent, in a bunny suit, to what he discovers is a funeral (actually a set up with actors). He's forced to sing For He's a Jolly Good Fellow to the corpse as his grieving widow whimpers nonstop in the front row.

Another segment gauges

a husband's reaction to a plastic surgery nightmare perpetrated on his wife, while another hubby watches his wife get felt up by a commercial producer for what he thought was a tryout for a mouthwash ad.

Mandel does a lot of the heavy lifting in the skits himself, only to reveal his bald-pated identity at the conclusion. He looks to be having a good time, the victims slightly less so. But there have been far nastier hidden-camera efforts than this. Better ones, too. Yet to be sure, in the opening hour, Howie Do It at least delivers laughs more often than it inspires groans.

REUTERS

## 24 off to strong start after dud season

Considering the jump-the-shark pronouncements that accompanied season six of 24 two years ago, the clamour for the return of Fox's real-time thriller has been notably muted.

The good news is that the now customary two-night, four-hour kickoff on Sunday and Monday finds the series returning to its heart-in-your-throat best, replete with old villains, intricate conspiracies, moral quandaries

and political intrigue. What easily could have devolved into self-parody has again become a riveting thriller that hits the ground sprinting.

Things kick off with former Counter Terrorism Unit badass Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) in court, his beloved CTU having been disbanded; now he's forced to answer for his excesses before a Senate subcommittee. He sits there essentially justi-

fying his torture techniques. But it won't be long before Bauer is pressed back into service.

REUTERS

### GlobalStyle

**Kenya Hunt**

Read Kenya, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle



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Television

Writers nominate best scripts

**Hollywood screenwriters Wednesday named nominees for 2008's best film scripts with a few surprises among the movies vying for honours ahead of the industry's highest awards — the Oscars in February.**

The Writers Guild of America nominated for best original screenplay Milk, written by Dustin Lance Black and telling of the life of slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk, along with

Robert Siegel's The Wrestler, which looks at the life of a faded sports star. Those writers will be joined by veteran Woody Allen with romantic comedy Vicky Cristina Barcelona, brothers Joel and Ethan Coen for another comedy, Burn After Reading, and Tom McCarthy with immigration tale The Visitor.

In the best adapted screenplay category, the Writers Guild nominated Eric Roth for The Curious

Case of Benjamin Button, about a man who ages backward, John Patrick Shanley with sex abuse drama Doubt and Simon Beaufoy for Slumdog Millionaire, which tells of a young Indian man who competes to win a fortune on a television game show.

Joining those film writers in the adapted screenplay group are brothers Jonathan and Christopher Nolan for their Batman movie, The Dark Knight,

and Peter Morgan with Frost/Nixon, which recounts the interviews by British TV host David Frost of disgraced U.S. President Richard Nixon.

Nominees for awards from the Writers Guild often provide industry watchers with clues as to which films will compete for Oscars, because many guild members also belong to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gives out the Oscars. **REUTERS**

FRIDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
19/09	265	353	2	TVO	Centre of the Earth	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	Heartbeat			Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Howie Do It "Pilot" (N)	Friday Night Lights		NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)	Supernanny (N)		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint "Eagle Two"		Raising the Bar "Pilot"		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Just for Laughs (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Howie Do It "Pilot" (N)	Lipstick Jungle (N)		Dateline NBC		News (N)
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint "Eagle Two"		NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)	News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker	Lipstick Jungle (N)		Crusoe (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E News	THS Investigates			20/20 (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
20/09	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap (N)	Supernanny (N)		20/20 (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Bruce Almighty ** (2003, Comedy)	Jim Carrey.		News (N)		News
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	406	417	27	net	Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Pro Football Preview	Prime Time Sports		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Toronto Raptors. (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre			That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Matilda *** (1996, Comedy)		You Wish! (2003, Fantasy)	A.J. Trauth.		The Last Starfighter (1984)	
	551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	Aquamarine ** (2006, Comedy-Drama)	Sara Paxton.		(9:45) Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Shootout"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
21/09	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Star Wars IV: A New Hope **** (1977, Science Fiction)	Mark Hamill.			
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's Inquest	Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Discovery Project Earth	Man vs. Wild "Siberia"		Dark Fellowships: The Vril		Daily Planet
	581	566	53	MTV	4REAL	After	Made "Hockey Player"	A Double Shot of Love		The City "The	The City "The	After
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Escaped"		Shockwave	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	Ax Men		Jobs in Danger
	603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home		Restaurant Makeover	Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay Kitchen

SATURDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/10/09	265	353	2	TVO	Fawn Identity (N)		True Believer *** (1989, Crime Drama)	James Woods.		The Interviews	(10:20) Cape Fear (1991)	
	211	331	3	GTV	Sabrina's Law		Zero Hour		Mob Stories	Go Deep "Fireboats"		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		The Burial Society ** (2002, Suspense)	Rob LaBelle.		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	NFL Football: AFC Playoff		NFL Football NFC Divisional Playoff -- Arizona Cardinals at Carolina Panthers.					News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey: Regional -- Rangers at Senators, Maple Leafs at Flyers or Capitals at Canadiens					NHL Hockey: Sharks at Canucks		
	-	360	9	NBC	St. Jude's Children's Hospital		Crusoe (HDTV)		Law & Order "Strike"		Law & Order: SVU	Local 4 News
	-	362	13	CBS	NFL Football: AFC Playoff		Game Show	Game Show	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		48 Hours Mystery	CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	Summer's Tail ** (2007, Drama)	Bryant Chang.		Omni News: Mandarin		Chinese Rest.
	214	344	15	CITY	Without a Trace "Pilot"		Less-Kind	Kaya	Christie's Revenge (2007, Drama)	Danielle Kind.		News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	E News	The Soup	The Haunting of Sorority Row (2007, Drama)			Show Yours	G-Spot	News (N)
2/10/09	-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		The Bachelor			True Beauty		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	Seinfeld	NFL Pregame	NFL Football NFC Divisional Playoff -- Arizona Cardinals at Carolina Panthers.					News (N)
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News	Investigations
	406	417	27	net	English Premier League Soccer Stoke City vs. Liverpool.				The Ultimate Fighter		Heads-Up Poker	Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Antarctique	Découverte (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages	La Fature	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	E:60 (N)		Curling Casino Rama Skins Game -- Semifinal. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
	554	544	48	TEL	Doctor Dolittle ** (1998, Comedy)	Eddie Murphy.		Carl2	Futurama	Tank Girl * (1995, Science Fiction), Ice-T		
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	Little Big League ** (1994, Comedy)		Men in Black (1997)	
	551	542	65	YTV	Team Galaxy	Team Galaxy	Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto	Bleach	Ghost	Ghost
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Camp Fear"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Bunk"		The Sopranos (HDTV)	The Sopranos
3/10/09	628	584	32	SPKE	(6) Star Wars IV: A New Hope (1977, Science Fiction)				Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back **** (1980, Science Fiction)			
	616	521	39	SHO	Mutant X		The Wrong Guy ** (1998, Comedy)	Dave Foley.		The Fast and the Furious (2001, Action)		
	520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab (N)	Out in the Cold	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Destroyed	Time Warp	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Guinea Pig (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	MTV Live	After	Made "Hockey Player"		MTV News	After	Cribs	Cribs
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Probie"		Ancestors	Ancestors		The General's Daughter ** (1999, Suspense)	John Travolta.	
	603	561	95	FN	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Top Chef "Focus Group"		Hell's Kitchen	The F Word

SUNDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/11/09	265	353	2	TVO	Coiba: A Savage Paradise		How Does Memory Work (N)	Forgetful Not Forgotten		Allan Gregg	(10:45) The View From Here	
	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors	The Simpsons	24 Tony Almeida is responsible for a terrifying threat. (N)			(10:01) Brothers & Sisters		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Golden Globes Red Carpet		Million Dollar Password	Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		Medium		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Desperate Housewives		The 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards Achievement in film and TV industries.					News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Dragon's Den (N)		Being Erica "Dr. Tom"		CBC News: Sunday Night (N)	fifth estate
	-	360	9	NBC	Golden Globes Red Carpet		The 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards Achievement in film and TV industries.					Local 4 News
	-	362	13	CBS	NFL Football: AFC Playoff		Million Dollar Password	Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		The Unit (HDTV) (N)		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Tongues: History Language		Aaram	Airang Korea	Word for Word	Trendy Zone	Tongues: History Language	Of Blessings
	214	344	15	CITY	TBA	Two/Half Men	Movie					News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	Annual Golden Globe Awards		Extreme Makeover: Home		Fantastic Four ** (2005, Action)	Ioan Gruffudd.		News (N)
2/11/09	-	361	20	ABC	Funnest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		(10:01) Brothers & Sisters	News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	24 Tony Almeida is responsible for a terrifying threat. (N)				News (N)	Sportsworks
	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom	D.L. Hughley
	406	417	27	net	WHL Hockey Swift Current Broncos at Calgary Hitmen. (Live)					World Combat League		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Marie-Claude	Regards sur 2008		Le Téléjournal	Les Couillises du pouvoir	Regard	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NFL Football: AFC Playoff		NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6teen		Carl2	Futurama	Hellboy: Sword of Storms (2006, Fantasy)	
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	Curly Sue *** (1991, Comedy-Drama)		Read It and Weep (2006)	
	551	542	65	YTV	Alex Rider: Stormbreaker		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Adrenaline Proj	Zixx Level
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Burned"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Sunblock"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami
3/11/09	628	584	32	SPKE	(6) Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)				Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi *** (1983, Science Fiction)	Mark Hamill.		
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard (HDTV)		Love Notes (2007, Drama)	Laura Leighton, Antonio Cupo.		Catwoman * (2004, Action)	Halle Berry.	
	520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters		Fireball of Tutankhamun		Secrets of the Crystal Cave		MythBusters (N)	A. Bourdain
	581	566	53	MTV	Made "Hockey Player"		Cribs	Cribs		Cribs	Cribs	After
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Model Behavior"		Braveheart's Scotland		Braveheart *** (1995, Historical Drama)	Mel Gibson.		
	603	561	95	FN	The Wild Chef	Exotic	The Next Great Chef		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star	The Heat

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**Kanye's mother's surgeon sentenced**  
The plastic surgeon who operated on Kanye West's mother the day before she died has been sentenced to a year in jail for drunken driving. [USMAGAZINE.COM](http://USMAGAZINE.COM)

## Going Out

### Mix of Six

#### Tempting Providence

When: Through January 25  
Where: Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre, 1233 Wellington St.  
The Great Canadian Theatre Company starts the new year off with Robert Chafe's *Tempting Providence*, a story of Nurse Myra Bennett who delivered hundreds of babies and performed operations in Canada's north. For tickets and show times, visit [gctc.ca](http://gctc.ca) or call 613-236-5196.

#### LiVE Indie Sessions

When: Friday 8 p.m.  
Where: LiVE Lounge, 126 1/2 York St.

Some of the best lead vocalists in Ottawa and Montreal will play it solo in this night of eclectic, energetic music featuring Matt Antaya of Self Cynic, Corey Norris of Channel One, Tim Smith of Tim's Myth, and Mike Mitani of Heroes Offer Her. Cover is \$8 at the door.

#### Brock Zeman

When: Friday, 9 p.m.  
Where: Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St.

Carleton Place-based singer/songwriter Brock Zeman will play tunes from his latest album, \$100 Difference, and the five albums that came before it. For more information visit [brockzeman.com](http://brockzeman.com).



#### Crush Buildings

When: Friday, 8 p.m.  
Where: Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.

Check out the intricate stylings of Ottawa band Crush Buildings, along with special guests The Soft Disaster. Tickets are \$7 at the door.



#### One Night Stand

When: Friday, 7-10 p.m.  
Where: La Petite Mort Gallery, 306 Cumberland St.

The work of artist Ted Willis is on exhibit for one night only, in his unique show TOYZ. Tunes provided by Big Mac Daddy. For more information visit [lapetitemortgallery.com](http://lapetitemortgallery.com).

#### FM Hi Low

When: Friday, 8:30 p.m.  
Where: Blacksheep Inn, 420 Riverside Dr., Wakefield  
The soulful Fraser MacDougall makes up the FM in this unforgettable musical outfit. Guests include Saint Even. Tickets are \$5 through [ticketweb.ca](http://ticketweb.ca)



## Verdict on Watchmen injunction wanted soon

**MOVIES** January 20 could be D-day in the Watchmen dispute between Fox and Warner Bros.

Or rather I-day, when the studios have agreed to let a judge decide whether to issue an injunction against the superhero film's scheduled March 6 release by Warner Bros.

But Warners is asking that the hearing be moved up to as early as Monday because "time is critical," the studio argues in papers filed this week. The studio must soon commit tens of millions of dollars in marketing for a film it isn't sure it can release.

REUTERS

### Metro's 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

**1 Batman**  
The people have voted and The Dark Knight swept through the People's Choice Awards. The latest Batman movie picked up all five awards it was nominated, including favourite movie.



**3 Fight on New Year's**  
Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson

rang in the New Year with a bang, literally. The two stars were seen fighting at Miami International Airport over the holidays before flying back to L.A., reports [tmz.com](http://tmz.com). It's been brewing that the two broke up, but Lohan denies it.

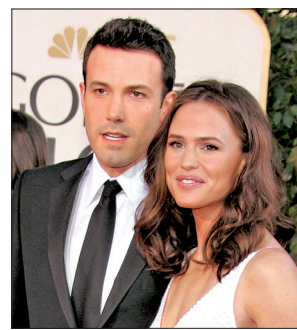
**5 No Angie vs. Jen?**  
Brad Pitt has announced that there

is no feud happening between his current girlfriend and ex-wife, reports [intouchweekly.com](http://intouchweekly.com). He says Jen is still a part of his life and that they "check in" with each other.



**4 Daredevil couple's baby**  
The media is abuzz with news of Jennifer

Garner and Ben Affleck's newest addition to the family. Their second daughter was born Tuesday in Los Angeles, reports [people.com](http://people.com). The pregnancy was confirmed by the couple in August.



**6 Twilight's next movie**  
For Twilight fans the cast for the sequel, New Moon, are trickling in. Everyone's favourite vampire Robert Pattinson will be back, as well as Kristen Stewart, reports [people.com](http://people.com). The movie is scheduled for release this fall.

**7 Celebrity Apprentice '09**  
Donald Trump is back with another new round of celebrities in the second season of this show, reports [tvguide.com](http://tvguide.com). Guests include comedian Tom Green, musician Clint Black and Olympian Scott Hamilton.

### In brief

**BURIED CHILD** Sam Shepard's engaging and funny play about a dysfunctional American farm family opens tonight National Arts Centre, under the direction of Peter Hinton. Tickets range from \$14.25-\$61 and can be purchased through [nac-can.ca](http://nac-can.ca)

**AL LUBEL** Trial attorney-turned-comic Al Lubel performs with guests Brendan McKeigan and Dave Paterson Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. as well as Sunday 8 p.m. For ticket information and reservations at Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St. call 613-233-8000.

**TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE BURNS** The Ottawa Folk Festival presents a special concert in advance of the 250th anniversary of the famed poet's birth on Friday at National Arts Centre, Fourth Stage. Bobby Watt and friends perform the musical tribute. Tickets are \$20 through [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca).

**LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE** John P. Kelly directs this fun, and surprisingly bloody, Irish play for Seven Thirty Productions starting Friday at The Gladstone, 910 Gladstone Ave. Features many local talents including Zach Council, Scott Florence and Kate Smith. For show and ticket information call 613-233-4523.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**GCTC**

**TEMPTING PROVIDENCE**  
BY ROBERT CHAFE

DIRECTED BY: JILLIAN KEILEY

JAN 6 - 25, 2009

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[sexapalooza.ca](http://sexapalooza.ca)

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**Waltz With Bashir nominated for BAFTA**

Israeli animation movie Waltz With Bashir, about the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in Beirut, is one of five movies to be nominated for a foreign language BAFTA award, Britain's equivalent of the Oscars. **REUTERS**

**Going Out**

# New Bond tops

## Quantum strikes box-office gold

**Quantum of Solace has raked in \$167.1 million at domestic box offices, becoming in current dollars the highest grossing James Bond movie in the United States and Canada, the studio behind it said yesterday.**

The film surpassed 2006's Casino Royale, the previous Bond movie, which made \$167 million in the United States and Canada. Casino still holds the worldwide box office record for the franchise with \$594.2 million.

Since it opened on Nov. 14, Quantum has made \$550 million worldwide, said studio Columbia Pictures. The film is still playing in theatres, and has yet to open in Japan.

Both movies star Daniel Craig as Bond, the British spy.

But adjusted for inflation, Quantum of Solace and Casino Royale trail the



Daniel Craig plays British superspy James Bond in the franchise's latest instalment, Quantum of Solace.

U.S. and Canada box office revenue of the 1965 Bond movie Thunderball, which has an adjusted total of \$538.6 million, according to tracking firm Boxoffice-mojo.com.

Quantum of Solace was produced in a partnership between Columbia and

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. Columbia oversaw production, marketing and distribution, but MGM will handle DVD distribution.

Starting with the next Bond movie, the franchise returns to closely held MGM. There have been 22 Bond films overall. **REUTERS**

**News in brief**

**NETWORK** ABC News is reducing its full-time presence in Iraq, and will rely more on the BBC for day-to-day reports from inside the country. The network will continue to have a Baghdad bureau, though there will be no full-time correspondent and fewer employees than there have been since the war began in 2003. Its

move comes at a time when the broadcast networks face slimmer budgets and an intensifying war in Afghanistan.

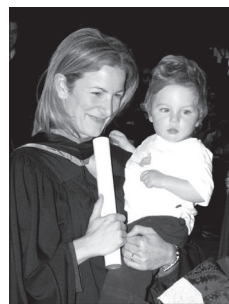
**PEOPLE** After months of will-he or won't-he speculation, MSNBC Hardball host Chris Matthews has opted not to run for the U.S. Senate in his native Pennsylvania. Matthews

told his producers during a meeting just before Wednesday's Hardball that he isn't seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat occupied by moderate Republican Arlen Specter, who is up for re-election in 2010. He is now said to be mulling a contract renewal offer from MSNBC.

**REUTERS**

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Ottawa

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Panel Discussion	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Networking Social	4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Gloria Saccon, Director, Queen's National Executive MBA

**Panelists will include:**

**Marj Akerley**, MBA, Chief Information Officer, Natural Resources Canada  
**Joanne Butler**, MBA, Audit Project Leader, Office of the Auditor General of Canada  
**Pina Downey**, MBA, Finance Manager, Cost Allocation, Canada Post Corporation  
**Veronica Engelberts**, MBA, President, Vector Media  
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TV reality stars Heidi Montag, Spencer Pratt (The Hills), Kendra Wilkinson (The Girls Next Door) and Kim Kardashian (Keeping Up with the Kardashians) will make appearances on the Jan. 12 episode of How I Met Your Mother. [EONLINE.COM](http://EONLINE.COM)

## Celebrity Buzz

### No Gossip Girl role for Nicole

**CAREER** Sorry Upper East Siders: Nicole Richie won't be joining the cast of Gossip Girl any time soon, us-magazine.com says.

Richie's rep tells the website that it's "not true" she's planning to guest star on the CW show. Rumors began after a New York newspaper reported that Richie "loves Gossip Girl and she wants a really b—hy, juicy role."

Richie played a bully on NBC's Chuck earlier this season. She's currently focusing on her House of Harlow jewelry line.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Piven's mercury story in doubt

**CAREER** The folks behind Jeremy Piven's aborted Broadway run in Speed the Plow may be looking to recoup their investment. Piven abruptly left the show last month because of "mercury poisoning" from eating too much sushi. To the investors, the whole thing sounds fishy, according to the New York Post.

Producers for the show revealed that Piven has been examined by another doctor to get a second opinion, and if it turns out he's playing sick, they may be able to



METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Amy serenades fling

**RELATIONSHIP** Amy Winehouse serenaded her new man in a hotel bar on Wednesday, female-first.co.uk reports.

The troubled singer dedicated her impromptu performance to budding actor Josh Bowman at a Caribbean hotel bar.

A guest at the hotel revealed: "When she finished playing, she rushed over to Josh and was hugging and kissing him. Her voice was



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

amazing. Josh was obviously impressed. They were all over each other."

Amy played the piano and sang to the 25 guests in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Josh, 21, has denied rumours he is romantically involved with the married star after pictures of the couple cuddling in St Lucia were published this week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### ScarJo's Spice goals

**PEOPLE** Scarlett Johansson is a "Stay-at-home-and-veg Spice," reports female-first.co.uk

The 24-year-old actress admits she felt terrible watching husband, Canadian Ryan Reynolds, compete in the New York Marathon last year because she doesn't have the energy to do it herself.

She said: "I went to some random spot and saw everybody going past. It was really incredible. I'm a horrible runner — I can barely put one foot in front of the other."

"I saw that Jennifer Lopez did a triathlon and I'm like, 'Damn, girl, you just had twins!' It's amazing."

Referring to the nicknames the Spice Girls gave themselves — Posh Spice, Ginger Spice, Sporty Spice, Baby Spice and Scary Spice —

Scarlett added: "I'm so not a Sporty Spice — I'm a stay-at-home-and-veg Spice."



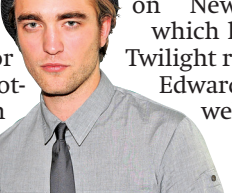
METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Pattinson pulls out of planned role

**CAREER** Robert Pattinson has pulled out of a planned movie role, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British actor was due to start shooting Parts per Billion alongside Olivia Thirlby and Rosario

Dawson later this month but has had to withdraw due to his commitments on New Moon, in which he reprises his Twilight role as vampire Edward Cullen, the website says.



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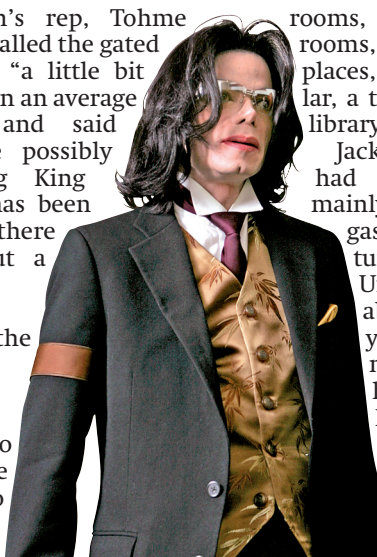
### King of Bel Air?

**PEOPLE** Bel Air has a new, not-so-fresh prince, eonline.com reports.

Michael Jackson is currently holed up in the tiny Los Angeles neighborhood after inking a year-long lease on a \$100,000 US-per-month French chateau built in 2002, the website says.

Jackson's rep, Tohme Tohme, called the gated property "a little bit more than an average home" and said that the possibly returning King of Pop has been living there for about a month.

Thome said the Thriller singer moved back to L.A. to be closer to Holly-



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wood and showbiz in general.

"He might want to build his own dream house, although the real estate market isn't very good right now," Tohme told the Los Angeles Times, which reported that Jackson's current digs are a French chateau with seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, 12 fireplaces, a wine cellar, a theater and a library.

Jackson, who had been living mainly in Las Vegas since returning to the United States about two years ago, finally let go of his idling Neverland Ranch in November.

### Mario dishes on his first kiss with Fergie

**PEOPLE** While Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and actor Josh Duhamel make final preparations for their weekend nuptials, Extra

host Mario Lopez can't wait to share in their happy day, people.com reports.

And Lopez has a special bond with Fergie: Both were one other's first kiss in the '80s, when they starred on Kids Incorporated.

"It's a true story. I'm very proud of my first kiss," says Lopez.

"She says there

was no tongue!"

But there was a romance, albeit brief, for the youngsters. "I wrote her a note and, as she likes to point out, I was very smooth at 10 because I bought her perfume," Lopez says, laughing. "I think the gesture was pretty good for a kid."

Once the young romance fizzled, a friendship blossomed. "I'm happy to say Stacy has stayed just as sweet as when we were kids," Lopez says.



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### I'll find Mr. Right, Ellen tells Anne

**PEOPLE** Having tiptoed around her dating life, Anne Hathaway was cornered by Ellen DeGeneres on the subject of Mr. Right, people.com reports.

"If you need someone, I will find you a boyfriend," the TV host told the actress on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. "I'm really good at it."

"Did you see how nervous I just got?" responded Hathaway.

"You don't even have to date," advises DeGeneres.

"You can go straight to commitment."



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### Kidman can't watch own films

**PEOPLE** Nicole Kidman can't bear to watch herself onscreen. The actress claims the only films of hers she has watched are those directed by Baz Luhrmann. "I've really only seen (Moulin Rouge) and (Australia) in my whole career," Kidman told Australian radio station 2dayFM.

Kidman recounted how uncomfortable the Australia premiere made her: "I can't look at this movie and be proud of what I've done ... It's just impossible for me to connect to it emotionally at all."



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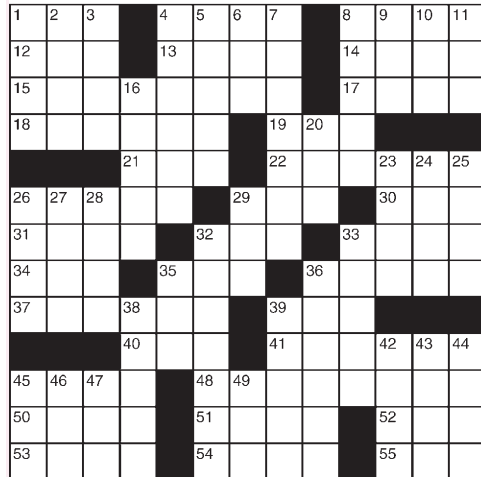
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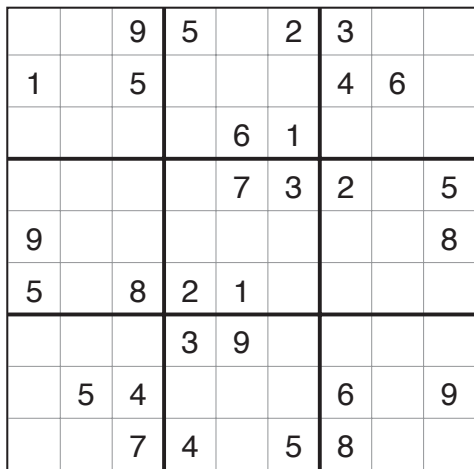
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



## Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



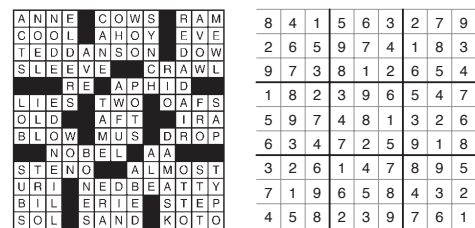
## Crossword across

- 1 Wool wearer  
4 Out of harm's way  
8 Forehead  
12 Prune  
13 Mountain goat  
14 Discourteous  
15 Somewhat buried (in)  
17 Prayer closer  
18 Breastbones  
19 Legislation  
21 Jewel  
22 Dormant  
26 Mixed metal  
29 Marceau char-  
acter  
30 One of the kin  
31 "Give a —, don't pollute"  
32 Oppositionist  
33 Minor players  
34 Past  
35 Candle matter  
36 Hiawatha's craft  
37 Flock loser  
39 Scratch  
40 Pod occupant  
41 Wears away  
45 Poolroom supply  
48 Road Runner's call  
50 Frizzy do  
51 Tardy  
52 Microbrewery output  
53 Verse  
54 Formerly, formerly  
55 Big Apple letters

## Crossword down

- 1 Benevolent herd?  
2 Refuses to  
3 Duel tool  
4 Director Lumet  
5 Perpendicular, at sea  
6 Retainer  
7 Clarify  
8 Barroom set-to  
9 Pirates' quaff  
10 "— on a Grecian Urn"  
11 Rune equivalent to a W  
16 Grain disease  
20 Cleo's slayer  
23 Black, to Browning?  
24 Therefore  
25 Sit for a shot  
26 Moby's pursuer  
27 Trademark symbol  
28 Aerobic maneuver  
29 Carton  
32 Skilled  
33 Ersatz chocolate  
35 Teensy  
36  
Kidderminster, e.g.  
38 — salts  
39 Bumps into  
42 Campus VIP  
43 Slithery  
44 Detail, for short  
45 Upper limit  
46 E.T.'s vessel  
47 Before  
49 Corn spike

## PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....	Smart
Under 13 min .....	21-25 min .....	Not bad
13-17 min .....	25+ min .....	Keep practising

## Metro Recipe of the Day



## Mackerel with Dill Mayonnaise

## INGREDIENTS:

A small bunch of fresh dill  
1 1/2 lb (680 g) new potatoes  
Salt  
1 tsp (5 ml) mixed peppercorns  
Oil for greasing  
4 mackerel fillets, 6 oz (170 g) each  
4 tbsp (60 ml) mayonnaise  
4 tbsp (60 ml) natural Greek yogurt  
1 tbsp (15 ml) capers

## GARNISH:

1 lemon

## METHOD:

1. Put kettle of water on to boil. Rinse and dry dill, remove fine fronds from stalks, and set both aside separately.  
2. Scrub new potatoes and put into large saucepan with some salt and the dill stalks. Cover potatoes with boiling water from kettle, return to boil, and cook for 15–20 minutes.  
3. Meanwhile, preheat grill to high. Crush peppercorns with mortar and pestle or rolling pin.

Lightly oil grill rack, lay fillets on it, skin sides down, and sprinkle with peppercorns.  
4. Grill fillets for 5 minutes, then turn over, reduce heat to medium, and grill for another 5 minutes, or until skins are blistered. Turn over once more and grill for a further 2 minutes.  
5. While fish is cooking, blend mayonnaise and yogurt in a bowl. Chop dill fronds and capers, and mix in. Cut lemon into wedges and set aside.  
6. When mackerel is cooked, sprinkle flesh sides with salt. Drain potatoes and remove dill stalks. Serve mackerel with potatoes, dill, mayonnaise and lemon wedges.

## SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



## Horoscopes

## AVATAR VENUS

ARIES  
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Concentrate on solving a confidentiality issue. Be kind to a worryingly inconsistent person. Accusations about excessive spending will disturb you.

LIBRA  
SEPT 23-OCT 23

A gloomy guy is working out a solution. A careless observer reminds you of the past. A starving person's trustworthiness will shock you.

TAURUS  
APRIL 21-MAY 21

Being protective will provoke an odd response. Someone's complaints will be irritating. Turning down a greedy relative gives you self-respect.

SCORPIO  
OCT 24-NOV 22

Meditate to understand a tedious caller. Don't take advantage of anyone. A manager can clear the air.

GEMINI  
MAY 22-JUNE 21

Don't thwart any plans to make money. A cantankerous guy leaves annoying messages. Things will fall into place at home.

SAGITTARIUS  
NOV 23-DEC 21

A persuasive guy inspires a spectacular argument. An older person will disturb your sleep. Hope arises for a daring action.

CANCER  
JUNE 22-JULY 22

Use good manners with an insatiable friend. Listening well takes care of a problem. An opportunity is discovered by mistake.

CAPRICORN  
DEC 22-JAN 20

You can help a secretly sad woman. Don't buy new computer equipment yet. You'll face a standoff with an ailing person.

LEO  
JULY 23-AUG 23

You'll be the winner of a battle with bureaucracy. A private rendezvous will be maddening. Take no notice of someone's feigned indifference.

AQUARIUS  
JAN 21-FEB 18

A word of encouragement will perk you right up. A friend will tell you anything at this point. The chance of a lifetime will be presented.

VIRGO  
AUG 24-SEPT 22

Stand alone if you want to see the big picture. A hypocrite causes a misunderstanding. An intimidating person supports your ideas.

PISCES  
FEB 19-MARCH 20

A futuristic vision is at stake. You'll inspire some good ideas. A man's back-stabbing words will be held up to ridicule.

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